



THE MORNING NEWS

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“Lens di mi Wowonan” presents a fascinating look at the year past

Thursday, September 1 was Dia di Prensa –News Day, on Aruba, during which members of the press corps were feted by the government and a number of establishments, in appreciation of their daily efforts throughout the year to keep the public apprised of current events.

3 years ago, the first photographic exposition titled “Lens di mi Wowonan,” or “Lens of my Eyes,” in Papiamentu, was organized by popular photographer and cameraman, Leo Vrolijk. The RBTT/RBC Bank sponsored event is a fascinating retrospect of the past year’s important events, as well as inspiring nature and landscape photography. This year 33 photographers participated with over 160 images. The opening event took place Thursday evening at the Insight Art Gallery in Paradera Park, and the work will be on display for the next two weeks.

In 2009, it became a practice to dedicate the exhibit to a pioneer of the Aruban press corps, and this year Django Simoons, a 44-year veteran of news photography on Aruba, was the honoree. Journalist Jubi Naar, his long-time colleague, regaled the gallery with exciting anecdotes of Django’s exploits as an investigative news photographer, including a trip to Suriname where officials confiscated all his rolls of film and destroyed them as he departed the country because they



Django cuts the ribbon with wife Iris and Leo



Django Simoons with Djispie Franken and colleagues

claimed he had photographed “classified locations.” A forward-thinking Django had secreted the incriminating film in

his underwear, and they were published in island papers a few days later.

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Historic Center Project off to great start



This week the renovation and construction of the Historic Center project was inaugurated symbolically during the afternoon hours at the back of City Hall. The Prime Minister, who officiated the symbolic inauguration said... “we are happy to stand here today to celebrate an other important moment in the

renovation, future and development of our country. In the past years we felt what was living in your (referring to the audience standing around) hearts. We sensed the need for Arubans to see their country conserved, and to have their country renovated and enter into a new era.

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A gift for RBTT Bank



Jubi Naar shares some memories

“Lens di mi Wowonan”...

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Django Simmoons

It appears that getting those “forbidden shots” was his forte, and he often took risks to life and limb during his long career.

Django and his wife Iris were invited to officially open the exhibit, following the presentation of beautifully bound gift albums of this year’s collection to him and Joanna Maya, representing RBTT/RBC Bank.

The Insight Gallery is a charming location to view the exciting and insightful photographs of island events, local media personnel at work and play, and some lovely, artful images by a cadre of the island’s top photographers.

Insight Gallery is open from 9:00 AM to noon and from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Gallery owner and curator Alida Martinez can be contacted at 743-1400 to arrange a tour and to get directions.

by Rosalie Klein